

# KONI 2012 - SCI Assignment Part I

We will take some time on this assignment so don't panic. Read through (listen to and watch) each of the links a couple of times so you allow the opinions and reporting to settle into your brain. While it is an individual assignment, I think it'd be healthy if you watched or read or listened to or discussed the following links with one another. It should increase the depth of your knowledge when providing reflection on the issues.

A little background info...we spent time this year on Egypt and the Arab Spring. It's not like you don't appreciate the power of Social Networking in the political arena. It's a new world - Facebook has clout. Now whether that is used for good or ill is subjective. I'm sure Hosni Mubarak has a unique appreciation and far different from the protesters in Tahrir Square, for the blogging efforts of the April 6 Movement.

On this portion of the assignment - I want you to look at this news coverage of KONY 2012 in its entirety, then go back and look at it again. I have posted quotes from each of these pieces...I want you to reflect on these quotes. Label your Google docs simply with the source of each quote. Example #1 - On the Media and your thoughts. #2 Foreign Policy and your thoughts. My hope is that your depth of reflection will be broadened by your increase in depth of the issue. It probably wouldn't hurt for you to go and watch the video again before responding to the following positions. Remember, none of this is due until midnight Thursday March 29, we will have more in class time. So don't worry about racing to get it done. Provide the insight worthy of young adult, on the verge of attending university, dealing with a complex issue that calls for thoughtful discourse.

The key to doing a thorough job and getting a good grade on this assignment is to be particularly invested in the question. Don't you dare just repeat the same thing over and over again that making child soldiers kill people is a bad thing. Nobody is debating that. I want you to think like a college freshman - and spend as much time thinking about the prompt as you do your post.

I'm not sure how much this assignment will count - we can talk about it Monday. However, I am thinking that 50 points (maybe more) for each part seems fair (Part 1 - 50 / Part 2 - (which is purposely not yet posted - 50.) As for word count 200 words per question (minimum) or 1200 total seems like a good starting point. Any thoughts on these requirements will be considered. Email me if you have questions or comments...

- [On the Media](#) – Audio podcast includes interview with Nicolas Kristof
- [Foreign Policy](#) - “The Road to Hell is Paved with Viral Videos”
- [New York Times](#) – Nicolas Kristof ” – Viral Video, Vicious Warlord”
- [BBC News](#) – Video podcast – “Prosecutor Ocampo still backing campaign”
- [Christian Science Monitor](#) - “Director of Video agrees with critics
- [LA Times](#) – “Child Soldiers; Worldwide Scourge”

## 1 - On the Media

There's some interesting issues posed in this podcast, particularly coming out of our experience with *The Last King of Scotland*. Nicolas Kristof, author of the NYT editorial below, talks about the importance of a *bridge character*. He also mentions the heat that Hollywood has taken recently for placing a white lead in a pivotal position in an African movie. Sound familiar?

Finally the interviewer quotes Nigerian author (not of our Mexican couple's obsessive Boko Haram social group) Teju Cole as stating, "the fastest growth industry in the U.S. is the white savior industrial complex." What does Kristof think about these comparisons? What do you think? How does this relate to the *Last King of Scotland*?

## 2 - Foreign Policy

"But unless you truly believe that "the medium is the message," as Marshall McLuhan -- the Canadian futurologist who coined the expression "the global village" more than half a century ago -- kept insisting, then what *Kony 2012* exemplifies is not new thinking but a new delivery system for the humanitarian wing of the old imperial enterprise, in all its stunning condescension toward the Global South, its sense of entitlement, and not just its contempt for both historical and moral complexity and ambiguity, but its actual reveling in that ignorance."

## 3 - New York Times

**Nicolas Kristof** - "*American kids worrying about Kony accomplish nothing. The video promotes feel-good gestures — wear a bracelet! — that enrich a do-nothing aid organization but have no benefit in the jungles of central Africa.*"

It's true that indignation among Americans won't by itself stop Kony. Yet I've learned over the years that public attention can create an environment in which solutions are more likely."

## 4 - BBC News

**Angelo Izana** - Izana is a Ugandan journalist. He compares the attention brought by the KONY 2012 video to floods in a drought stricken village in Uganda. What do you think he means? What are your thoughts about the comparison?

## 5 - Christian Science Monitor

**Jason Russell** - "It definitely oversimplifies the issue. This video is not the answer, it's just the gateway into the conversation. And we made it quick and oversimplified on purpose," he said. "We are proud that it is simple. We like that. And we want you to keep investigating, we want you to read the history."

## 6 - Los Angeles Times

"But the use of child soldiers extends far beyond Central and West Africa. Today, child soldiers are fighting in at least 14 countries, including Colombia, Myanmar (also known as Burma) and Afghanistan. In most of these cases, there have been no arrest warrants, no trials and no convictions for those responsible." **On this quote I want you to find some links, read them and provide a short summary. Find two more instances of child soldiers somewhere in the world - link and summarize the article.**